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# THE Unexplained

MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

100

Crashed UFOs

A step through time

Eileen Garrett: modern medium

Palmistry-does it work?

The coming ice age

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# THE Unexplained
## MYSTERIES OF MIND SPACE & TIME

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# A frosty forecast

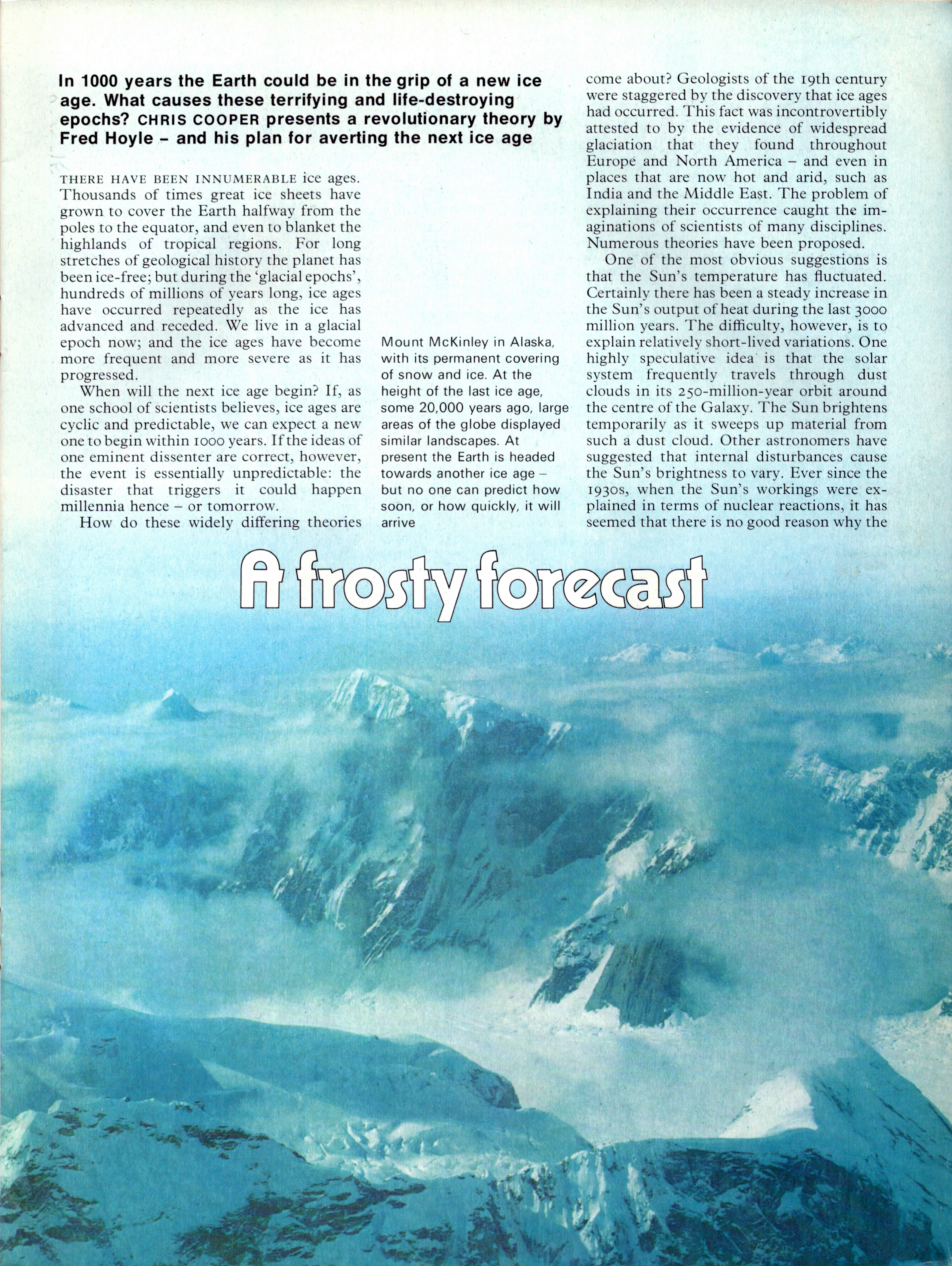
**In 1000 years the Earth could be in the grip of a new ice age. What causes these terrifying and life-destroying epochs? CHRIS COOPER presents a revolutionary theory by Fred Hoyle – and his plan for averting the next ice age**

THERE HAVE BEEN INNUMERABLE ice ages. Thousands of times great ice sheets have grown to cover the Earth halfway from the poles to the equator, and even to blanket the highlands of tropical regions. For long stretches of geological history the planet has been ice-free; but during the 'glacial epochs', hundreds of millions of years long, ice ages have occurred repeatedly as the ice has advanced and receded. We live in a glacial epoch now; and the ice ages have become more frequent and more severe as it has progressed.

When will the next ice age begin? If, as one school of scientists believes, ice ages are cyclic and predictable, we can expect a new one to begin within 1000 years. If the ideas of one eminent dissenter are correct, however, the event is essentially unpredictable: the disaster that triggers it could happen millennia hence – or tomorrow.

How do these widely differing theories come about? Geologists of the 19th century were staggered by the discovery that ice ages had occurred. This fact was incontrovertibly attested to by the evidence of widespread glaciation that they found throughout Europe and North America – and even in places that are now hot and arid, such as India and the Middle East. The problem of explaining their occurrence caught the imaginations of scientists of many disciplines. Numerous theories have been proposed.

One of the most obvious suggestions is that the Sun's temperature has fluctuated. Certainly there has been a steady increase in the Sun's output of heat during the last 3000 million years. The difficulty, however, is to explain relatively short-lived variations. One highly speculative idea is that the solar system frequently travels through dust clouds in its 250-million-year orbit around the centre of the Galaxy. The Sun brightens temporarily as it sweeps up material from such a dust cloud. Other astronomers have suggested that internal disturbances cause the Sun's brightness to vary. Ever since the 1930s, when the Sun's workings were explained in terms of nuclear reactions, it has seemed that there is no good reason why the



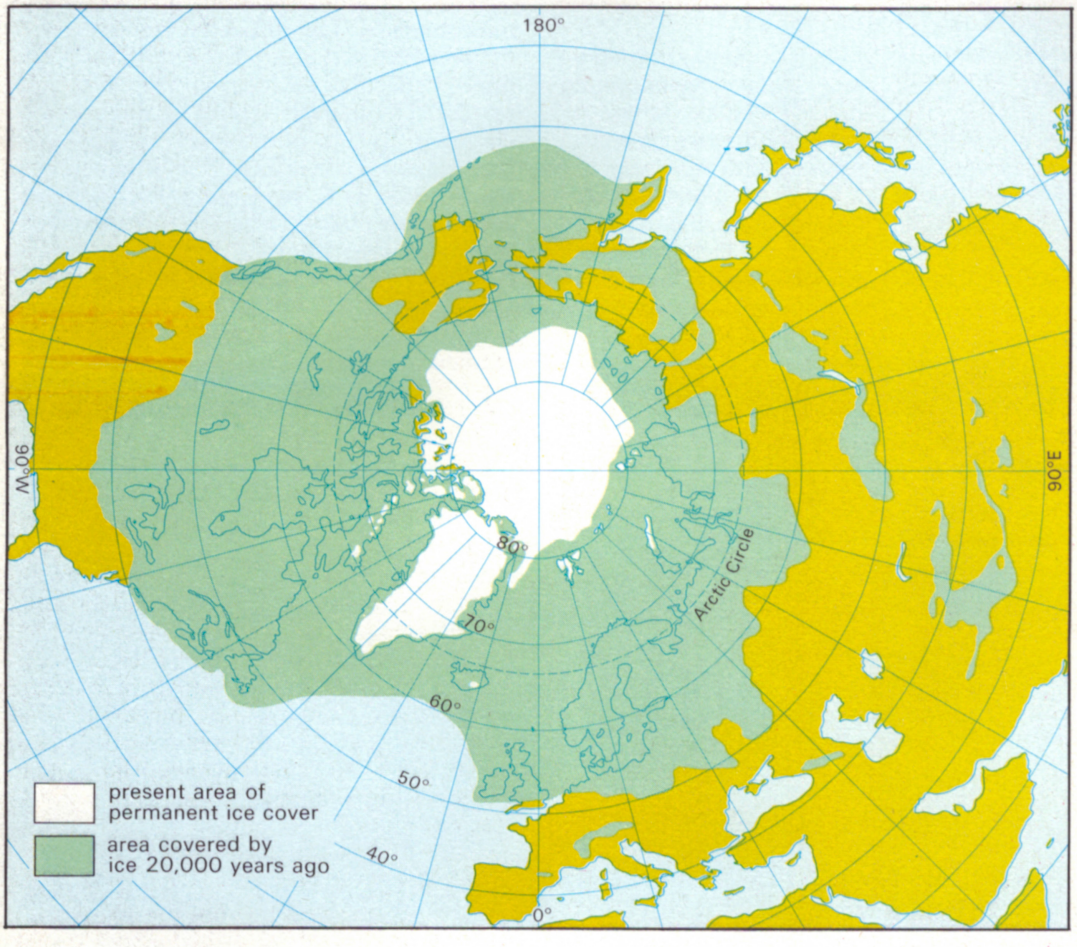
Mount McKinley in Alaska, with its permanent covering of snow and ice. At the height of the last ice age, some 20,000 years ago, large areas of the globe displayed similar landscapes. At present the Earth is headed towards another ice age – but no one can predict how soon, or how quickly, it will arrive

Sun should not shine at a steady rate for thousands of millions of years. But there is now evidence that, at its centre, the Sun is cooler than a calculation from its surface temperature would predict (see page 1898). Such a state of affairs cannot be permanent: it suggests that the Sun is returning to normal after a departure from its usual brightness. And such fluctuations could account for the occurrence of ice ages.

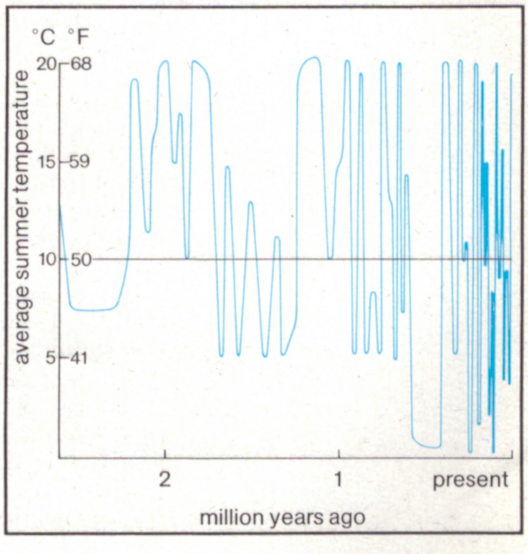
Most climatologists believe that a change of only a few per cent in the amount of sunlight falling on the Earth could trigger the onset of an ice age. But it is by no means clear whether it is an increase or a decrease in sunlight that is needed to cause an ice age. It has been suggested that an *increase* in the amount of sunlight falling on the Earth would increase evaporation of water, thereby increasing the amount of rain and snow worldwide. The extra cloud would prevent some proportion of sunlight ever reaching the Earth's surface; the increase in snowfall would increase the extent of the Earth's snow-covered areas and thus increase the amount of sunlight reflected back into space. All this would lower the world's average temperature, which would, in turn, further increase snowfall – and so on.

All theories that explain the ice ages as the consequences of a change in the Sun's temperature make them unpredictable. The model currently most favoured, however, makes it possible to predict the next ice age. Devised by a Yugoslav, Milutin Milankovich, in the 1920s, it states that the solution is to be found in the tiny, regular variations of the Earth's orbit.

There are three major cycles in these variations. Over a period of 95,000 years or so, the Earth's orbit changes its shape from circular to elliptical and back again. When the orbit is elliptical, the distance between the Earth and the Sun varies throughout the year. The slight difference that this causes in the amount of heat reaching the Earth can accentuate or mitigate the seasonal difference



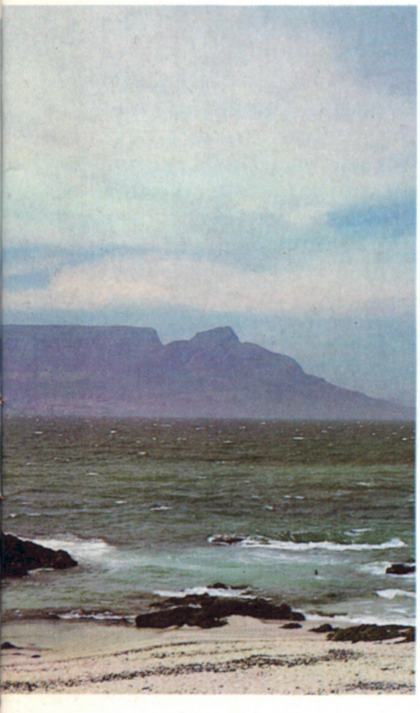

Above: the extent of ice at the height of the last ice age, shown in grey, and the extent of the permanent ice cover today, in white




Right: estimated average summer temperatures in north-west Europe over the past 3 million years; an ice age occurs whenever the average summer temperature falls below 50°F (10°C). The oscillations in climate are becoming both faster and more severe

Above: Table Mountain, Capetown, South Africa – the result of an ice age that occurred 300 million years ago, when Capetown suffered the same fate as Antarctica

Right: the birth of the new island of Surtsey, in the North Atlantic, on 14 November 1963, as the result of a submarine volcanic eruption. It has been suggested that huge clouds of dust ejected into the upper atmosphere by large-scale volcanic eruptions may be responsible for ice ages



between summer and winter temperatures in a particular hemisphere. At present the Earth's orbit is only slightly elliptical and it is becoming more nearly circular. Nevertheless, the variation in Sun-Earth distance tends to make northern summers and southern winters cooler, and northern winters and southern summers warmer, than they would be if the orbit were perfectly circular (see diagrams overleaf).

The seasons are caused by the tilt of the Earth's axis (see page 563). At present the tilt is about 23°27′, but it varies from 21°48′ to 24°24′. The Earth takes about 40,000 years to 'nod' once. At present the tilt is decreasing – the Earth is becoming more 'upright' in its orbit – and this is reducing the contrast between summer and winter.

The third of the cycles that are important in the Milankovich model is largely due to the Earth's precession, or 'wobble' – the change in direction of the Earth's axis. The effect of precession is to change the season at which the Earth is closest to the Sun. The result once again is to sharpen or soften the contrast between summer and winter, over a period of 11,500 years.

So there are three major cycles in the quantity of sunlight falling on the Earth. Although the total amount of sunlight received in the course of a year is not altered by any of these effects, the mildness or severity of the seasons changes in a complex pattern. And that pattern has been detected, so some scientists claim, in the geological record of ocean temperatures. This is obtained by studying the oxygen present in fossil marine organisms in rock cores drilled from the ocean bed. A complex statistical analysis of the graph of ocean temperature over time that is thus obtained has revealed cyclic variations with periods of about 95,000 years, 40,000 years and 11,500 years. These results encouraged many geologists to regard the ice ages problem as having been solved.

A major embarrassment for the Milankovich theory was that it seemed to suggest that ice ages should occur alternately in the northern and southern hemispheres. But refinements of the theory, taking into account the distribution of the world's land masses, show how it is possible for ice ages to occur at roughly the same time in both hemispheres – as the geological record shows they in fact have.

It seems that ice ages can occur only when there is land at or near either or both of the poles, so that permanent ice caps can form. The continents drift slowly over the Earth's surface (see page 1504), and there have been vast periods when there was only ocean in both polar regions. The Milankovich effect could not produce glaciation then.

For many millions of years, however, Antarctica has lain at the South Pole and the Arctic Ocean has been almost land-locked, so that it freezes easily. The requirements for an ice age in such conditions are sharp southern winters, so that large volumes of the Antarctic Ocean freeze and the southern hemisphere can initiate the spread of ice, and cool northern summers, so that not too much of the snow and ice cover in the north melts. These conditions have been fulfilled by the Milankovich effect over the last 150,000 years. The advance and retreat of the ice in northern latitudes has kept remarkably closely in step with the deficit or excess of solar radiation received in the northern hemisphere. Over the last 18,000 years the northern hemisphere has been getting more heat than average, and the ice has retreated. But from now on there will be less and less heating by sunshine in the north: it will reach a minimum in 10,000 years, but long before then a new ice age will have begun. By this reckoning, it will have reached its full intensity in 1000 years; it could endure for 100,000 years.

### Dissenting voices

There are scientists who reject the Milankovich theory; the distinguished astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle is one of them. The Milankovich model shows, he says, that cyclic variations in the Earth's temperatures are to be expected; it does nothing to show that ice ages would not occur even if all these variations were absent. He does not believe that the size of the variations – a few per cent – is sufficient to plunge the Earth into an ice age, or pull it out of one. As he puts it:

> If I were to assert that a glacial condition could be induced in a room liberally supplied during winter with charged night-storage heaters simply by taking an ice cube into the room, the proposition would be no more unlikely than the Milankovich theory.

He also believes that the slow astronomical changes could never account for the suddenness of the onset of ice ages, which can

develop in one or two centuries. They can end even more rapidly, in a matter of decades. Hoyle believes ice ages must have a sudden and violent cause.

He believes that the only possible candidate is the impact of a large meteorite. Bodies 1000 feet (300 metres) or more in diameter hit the Earth about once in every 10,000 years – which is about as often as ice ages occur.

What would happen to us if such a body were to crash onto the Earth tomorrow?

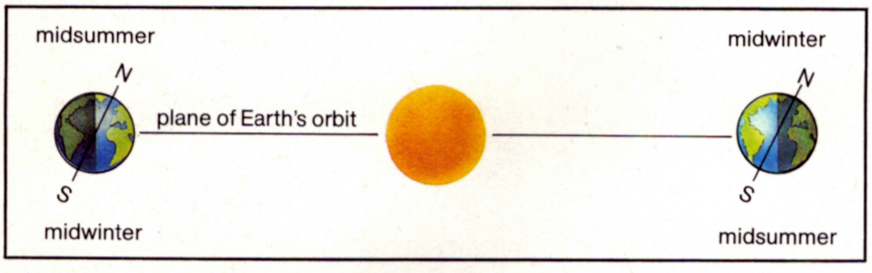
Assuming the object weighed around 50 million tonnes, it might throw 50,000 million tonnes of debris into the stratosphere. The blanket of reflective particles thus produced would screen out enough of the Sun's light to lower the Earth's temperature significantly.

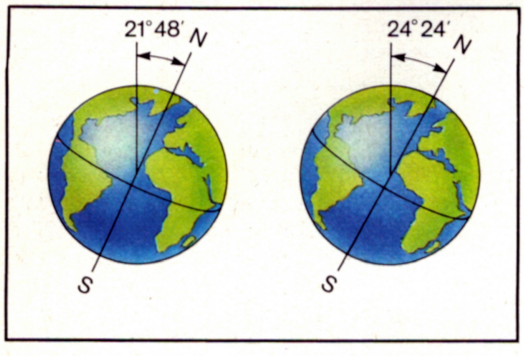
The land would cool faster than the ocean. The temperature difference would cause the Earth's weather to become more violent. Storms, rain and snow would become more intense. The effect would be to drain the ocean of its stored heat, while slowing the cooling of the atmosphere. For 10 years, as the dust particles in the high atmosphere settled and the ocean's stored heat was used up, the Earth's temperature would drop. Snow would fall in greater quantities and become permanent over ever increasing areas.

At this point a disaster would occur that would lock the Earth into its new ice age. The uppermost layers of the water vapour in the atmosphere are warmed, not by sunlight, which water vapour does not absorb well, but by heat radiation from the Earth. They would cool to the point at which countless minute grains of ice – called 'diamond dust' – suddenly form. Seen from space, they would form a dazzling white blanket in the upper atmosphere. This would reflect much of the Sun's heat back into space; and the ice cover would reflect a great deal of any heat that penetrated to the Earth's surface. The world's temperature would plunge further.

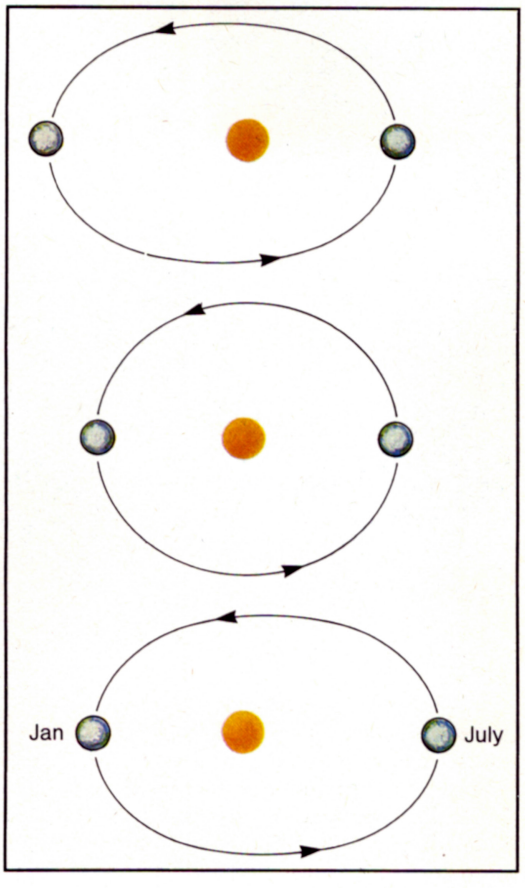
When the sea's excess heat had been lost, and the temperatures of the oceans, air and land were in equilibrium, winds would almost cease. There would be little rain or snow, but over the centuries ice sheets half a mile (800 metres) thick would develop over Britain, northern Europe and much of North America. Even in tropical zones the mountains would be capped with ice, from which huge glaciers would descend. A much reduced human population would live on, though millions would have starved as a result of the abrupt shifts in rainfall and vegetation patterns.

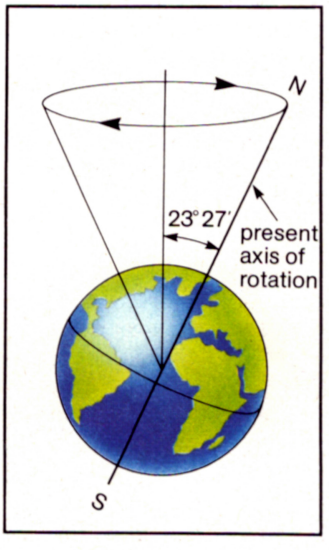
Below: the Earth's climate is governed by its orientation in relation to the Sun. Days are long in summer in the northern hemisphere because the North Pole of the Earth is tilted towards the Sun, and short in winter because it is then tilted away. But the Earth also 'nods' – the tilt of its axis varies between 21°48′ and 24°24′ (below left), tending to exaggerate or lessen the contrast between the seasons as the angle changes




In addition to 'nodding', two other cycles in the Earth's rotation affect the climate of the planet. Over a period of 95,000 years, the Earth's orbit changes from elliptical to circular and back again (right). The slight differences in the amount of heat reaching the Earth that this causes can emphasise or reduce the difference between the seasons. And the Earth's precession (below), or 'wobble', with a period of 11,500 years, has the same effect. According to the Milankovich theory, these three cycles can coincide to produce an ice age




In Hoyle's view only another meteor strike could reverse the effects of the one that brought on the ice age. This time a meteor with a high iron content would be required; such bodies represent between a fifth and a tenth of all meteors.

When such an object struck, millions of tonnes of fine iron particles would be thrown into the upper atmosphere. They would reduce the amount of direct sunlight getting through to the surface by perhaps 20 to 30 per cent. But the iron particles would absorb heat rather than reflecting it back into space. They would cause the atmosphere to warm rapidly. The diamond dust would vanish, turning into water vapour. Land and sea would warm up in their turn. The iron particles would take some decades to settle out of the atmosphere. When they had done

so the Earth would be able to complete its transition to a 'normal' state of affairs.

In fact, what we regard as a 'normal' climate has been the exception during our glacial epoch – the past two million years. Warm periods have been about 10,000 years long, while ice ages have been about 100,000 years long. This is consistent with the fact that stone meteorites strike the Earth between five and ten times more frequently than iron ones.

Hoyle suggests, in all seriousness, that the human race should take steps to prevent the recurrence of an ice age – a recurrence that is otherwise inevitable, and would be so rapid that we could not cope with the disruption it would cause. His proposal is that we increase the store of heat in the oceans.

The depths of the oceans are cold. This is largely because of the existence of the Antarctic ice cap. Icebergs break away and slowly melt during the southern summer. The cold dense sea water sinks to the bottom where it is cut off from the warmth of the atmosphere and sunshine.

Hoyle proposes to warm the ocean depths by pumping water from the depths of the oceans to the surface. There the water would be warmed somewhat by the warmth of the air; it would still be colder and denser than the surface waters, however, and would sink again, being warmed by the surrounding waters on its way down.

The warming must not be done too rapidly, for that would lead to a cooling of the surface waters and that would bring on an ice age. In fact, the project is conceived on a grand historical scale. A century's pumping, Hoyle calculates, would be required to increase the heat stored in the oceans by a year's supply; by this, he means the amount of heat required to prevent the formation of diamond dust – and hence the start of an ice age – for a year.

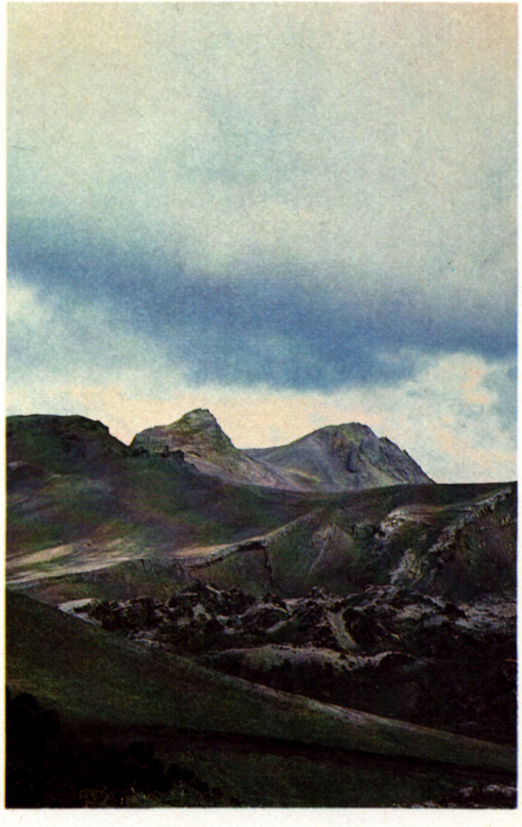
It would take a millennium to provide an extra 10 years' supply, which would double the world's present heat reserve. After a further 1000 years, when a 30-year supply had been established, the Earth would, Hoyle argues, be safe from the threat of a new ice age.

To achieve this cautious rate of warming, water would be pumped up in an area of the ocean about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (4 kilometres) across. It would take just over an hour for the water to rise from the sea's average depth of 4100 yards (3800 metres). The system would be self-powered, using the temperature difference between surface waters and bottom waters to run the pumps.

The result would be to return the overall temperature of the oceans to its level of 20 million years ago – when there were no ice ages. There would be some melting of the polar ice caps and a consequent rise in the world's sea level. Spread over a few thousand years, these could easily be dealt with. Hoyle envisages that during this time we shall be pushing back the oceans from the continental shelves in order to exploit their rich mineral resources – so he is not worried by the prospect of having to build some extra sea walls to provide a barrier against the oceans, since similar engineering projects will already have been accomplished.

Some would see this visionary scheme as one of the most arrogant manifestations of mankind's technological conceit to date. But Hoyle insists that it *must* be done. One day another of those stony meteorites will strike and, says Hoyle, it is up to us whether the ensuing disaster lasts a decade or so – or a hundred millennia.

Above: Admiralty Bay, King George Island, Antarctica and (right) the tundra of Greenland. According to the Milankovich theory, the next ice age is likely to be initiated by a series of sharp winters in the southern hemisphere, so that increasing areas of the Antarctic Sea can freeze permanently, combined with cool summers in the northern hemisphere, so that the snow cover of the land close to the North Pole remains frozen



**Further reading**

John Gribbin (ed.), *Climatic change*, Cambridge University Press 1978
Nigel Henbest, *The mysterious Universe*, Ebury Press 1981
Fred Hoyle, *Ice*, Hutchinson 1981

# A step through time

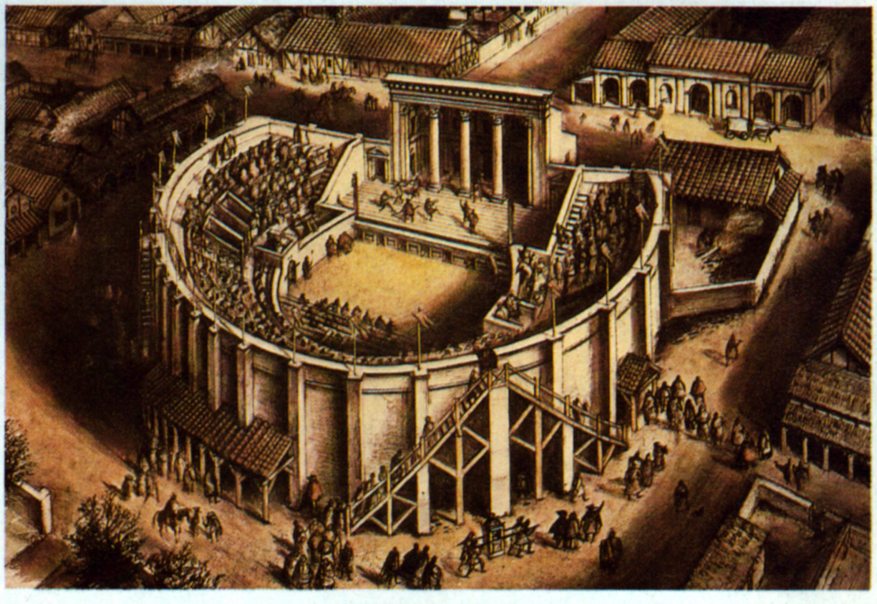
**There seems to be no limit to how far a person's awareness can travel in time. JOAN FORMAN begins her new series on long-term timeslips with a discussion of some cases in which witnesses seemed to experience events from times long before their own birth**

TIMESLIPS – THE BAFFLING INTRUSIONS of the events of one time into those of another – show an extraordinary range in the degree of dislocation involved. In a timeslip into the future there may be only a few minutes between a precognitive experience and the event that it anticipates, or there may be a delay of many years – perhaps centuries. Sometimes the experiences relate to events seemingly so far in the future that a date cannot be put on them. An equally wide variation is found in timeslips into the past.

The onset of a timeslip is always sudden. The only warning a subject may experience is a faint tingling on the skin or a sensation of nausea, similar to that which some people feel before a thunderstorm or earthquake. Other people are swept into the timeslip without warning, however. Such was the case of an English woman, Mrs M. Rawlings of Barnet in north London. She 'saw' a Roman procession entering the arena at Verulamium (modern St Albans). She noted the uniformed rank and file soldiers and the standard-bearers carrying the eagle insignia. Last of all came a high-ranking official dressed in white and wearing a laurel wreath. He sat down in a chair in the centre of the platform, with a standard-bearer taking up position on each side of him. The experience ended at that point. Mrs Rawlings had witnessed a scene that could easily have taken place in Verulamium some 19 centuries earlier.

The Romans made a deep impression in British consciousness and many of the truly long-distance timeslips relate to events connected with their occupation. Often these replayed fragments of Romano-British history bear a strong resemblance to the traditional haunting. Indeed the dividing line between some timeslips into the past and certain types of haunting is a shadowy one.

An example of such a borderline case is



The Roman theatre at Verulamium – now the English city of St Albans – must have seen many splendid ceremonial occasions in its heyday (below). Such an event seems to have been 'seen' by a modern woman among the present-day ruins (bottom)

## The march of time

A detachment of the Roman army seems to have returned to the English cathedral city of York – called Eburacum in Roman times – more than 15 centuries after they had left it. A heating engineer, Harry Martindale, was working on some pipes in a cellar of the medieval Treasurer's House (right) when he heard a trumpet call. In terror he watched as a figure wearing a 'kilt' and carrying a round shield marched through one wall. It was followed by an officer on horseback and then a column of about 14 or 16 unkempt and dispirited men. Martindale cowered in one corner as they marched diagonally across the cellar and vanished through the far wall.

Most remarkable of all, the men marched thigh-deep in the floor of the cellar. He glimpsed their feet only where they passed through a hole dug in the floor. Martindale believed they were marching on the old Roman road, now buried.

Martindale's mention of round shields, which Roman soldiers did not use, caused puzzlement at the time. Later it was found that the Sixth Legion, based at York, had been strengthened with auxiliaries – with round shields.

the incident at Oldbury Camp in Wiltshire, southern England, in which a shepherd saw a detachment of Roman soldiers on the march (see page 1344). Another is the apparition of a dishevelled band of Romans seen marching through a York cellar.

These three cases have a common factor: each concerns Roman military activity. The legions led a highly organised life of routine and regularity, and this seems to favour the paranormal 'recording' of events. The disciplined life of monasteries also seems to have left traces in numerous haunted sites (see page 1343).

Another paranormal 'record' left from the period of Roman rule in Britain may be mentioned here: the 'Cammeringham light'. Cammeringham is a small village near Lincoln in north-east England. It lies not far from Ermine Street, an old Roman road. A Mr Lucas was walking to work early one misty morning when he noticed large banks of vapour forming ahead of him – a not unusual occurrence at the beginning of a warm day. For no special reason Lucas found himself watching a particularly large bank of mist drifting towards him. Then a chariot emerged from it, driven by a woman and pulled by two horses, one black and one white. The woman wore a long flowing dress and her hair lay loose upon her shoulders. She whipped up the horses and Lucas saw the flash of gold jewellery as the early sunlight caught it. Almost immediately the chariot was swallowed again in the mist. Only then did the observer realise that he had heard no sound throughout the experience. He was convinced he had seen Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni – and the Icenian territories did indeed run well up into south Lincolnshire. This apparition – called the 'Cammeringham light' because of a curious hazy quality in the appearance of the figure – has been witnessed several times over the centuries.

Such echoes of the far-distant past do not always involve human figures, however. Occasionally long-vanished scenery appears. Only diligent research can establish that it belongs to the place where it is seen. There are cases of buildings reappearing on their old sites many years after their demolition. Natural features of the countryside can also reappear, as in the timeslip that occurred to a woman driving alongside the river Tweed in the Scottish border country.

A large area of this beautiful valley is administered by the Forestry Commission. But at the time of this experience they had not begun their planting. Since the 15th century the valley had been farming country: sheep and cattle were grazed there and provided a target for hungry raiders from both sides of the border. So at the time of this drive, from Moffat to Edinburgh, the valley would have been open, rolling hill country, with a certain amount of woodland. But the woman in fact drove through a great forest of tall trees, composed, as far as she could tell, of Scots fir, ash and oak – which made up the ancient indigenous forests of Scotland. The later afforestation is quite different, for it

consists of spruce, pine and larch.

The Romans had reached this area; they built a signalling station outside Moffat, at the great hollow called the Devil's Beef Tub. Although no Roman road was ever built along the Tweed Valley, an ancient track once ran there. It may be that the modern road picks up its course for a while – and sometimes the memories associated with it.

Sometimes the persons involved in a long-term timeslip find that they themselves seem to have changed physically – not necessarily in their own bodily form, but in their dress, appearance and demeanour. Such a change is often extremely upsetting to the person concerned, bringing with it the disturbing sense of being in two times at once and afterwards prompting thoughts of previous incarnations.

This happened to Mrs Phyllis Hester, who, while standing by a table in the old hall of St William's College in the ancient English cathedral city of York, felt herself to be dressed in a long robe and to be at a much earlier time in the building's history. She was surprised when she came out of her reverie and found herself in her modern short dress.

An echo from a more recent era, though one still separated from the present by more than a century, came to Mrs C. Maddison as she travelled in a bus in southern England. It was February, the weather was bitterly cold and snow was falling when, dressed in boots, trousers and a heavy coat, she set out on her journey. As she sat in the moving bus she was overcome by what, in her later account, she described as a 'peculiar feeling':

> I no longer had trousers, coat and boots on, but a bonnet, cape and long dress. If I rubbed my hands together I could feel the silk from my skirt. I jerked myself back to reality and stared out at the snow-covered roofs; then it started again – jolt, jolt, as though I were in a horse-drawn carriage. I started to twist my fingers anxiously and for some reason I felt a great urgency to get somewhere, but where I did not know. On we went and I felt the long ringlets bouncing on my neck.

This brought Mrs Maddison back to the present and she realised that the sensation was caused by her fur hood tickling her neck.

However, the experience was not yet finished. She found that she did not recognise the many small shops in a village that she passed through. 'There were no pavements, only cobblestones, and I suddenly became aware of absolute solitude.' Then the present again returned with a rush. When the vehicle reached a point at which there should be traffic lights, Mrs Maddison saw an old signpost. One arm bore the legend 'St Albanse'. The crossroads were muddy and deeply marked by the tracks of wheeled vehicles – but they were not tyre marks. The phenomenon did not cease until the woman

Left: Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni and a heroine of the English for her resistance to the Roman occupation. At long intervals she is apparently seen in an apparition called the 'Cammeringham light', which appears in Lincolnshire

Below left: the Devil's Beef Tub, a large natural depression near Moffat in Dumfriesshire, near the Scottish border. Marked today by this memorial to a 17th-century religious martyr, it was the site of a Roman signalling station. An apparent timeslip experienced by a woman driving near here may, like so many similar occurrences, have been associated with the Roman occupation

alighted at her destination.

To apprehend the present more or less simultaneously with the past or future in this way is highly unusual. The woman felt a strong identification with the Victorian woman whose attributes she had apparently taken on, and the incident made a profound impression on her.

Here is another incident in which those involved not only perceived another time but actually took part in events occurring in it. During the Second World War Mrs B.W. McDougall, who was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, was travelling with two friends to the RAF station at Abingdon in southern England. They did not know the area at all, having never previously visited it. They were therefore disconcerted to find they had missed the transport sent to meet them. Rural England at midnight in December and in the wartime blackout was not the happiest place to be. They had no choice but to walk to the camp.

Having lost their way they found themselves approaching a bridge. The night was cold and showery, so there was no thought in their minds as they passed under the bridge except to get to camp as soon as possible. The moment they were beneath the bridge Mrs McDougall felt the situation change. She seemed to be transported into another time – the time of the Peasants' Revolt, in the 14th century:

> I was one of a crowd of people scurrying under the bridge getting out of the way of trouble. It was hot, I smelt the sweat, and felt the heat of bodies pressing close to mine. I also felt the roughness of coarse cloth and knew my heart was beating with fright. I was conscious of heavy coarse cloth trailing at my feet, and had a feeling of dread and unease.

As soon as she emerged from the bridge she found herself back in the present. The interlude had lasted only a few seconds, but its impression was vivid and lasting.

Disturbances may very well have occurred in the Abingdon area during the Peasants' Revolt, but whether the incident described by the witness ever occurred in reality is not known. But while it lasted the 20th-century girl felt herself to be a 14th-century woman.

Above: St William's College, York, founded in 1453, was originally a college for priests. While visiting the building Mrs Phyllis Hester had the sensation of being a woman of some century past, in a long robe

Below: Richard II personally confronts the rebels during the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. During the Second World War an airwoman seemed to experience an incident from this rebellion

*Long-term timeslips into the future – precognitions – are discussed on page 2026*

# Have UFOs crashed on Earth?

**Ever since the term 'flying saucer' was coined in 1947, there have been rumours that the US government has one or more crashed UFOs – complete with alien pilots – in its custody. HILARY EVANS presents the evidence behind this extraordinary idea**

ALMOST AS SOON as the first 'flying saucers' were reported in 1947, rumours began to circulate that one of them had crashed and was under examination by American scientists. It was logical enough: given the great number that seemed to be around, it seemed statistically certain that sooner or later one of them would suffer an accident or breakdown, or be shot down by some earthly power.

Such reasoning assumed that the UFOs were solid, material objects, liable to physical accident or mechanical malfunction. In those early days there was little question in anyone's mind that the UFOs were as solid as terrestrial aircraft: the only question was, where did they originate?

What threw the crashed saucer legend into disrepute was, paradoxically, a book that set out to establish it as fact. In 1950 an American writer named Frank Scully brought out *Behind the flying saucers*, which became a sensational bestseller in both the USA and Europe. Something of the contemporary climate of opinion comes over in the dust-cover blurb: 'It is typical of the whole extraordinary and delightful business of the flying saucers that the first person to attempt a serious book about them should be the show business magazine *Variety's* ace columnist.' The point could have been made even more strongly by mentioning that Scully was also the author of *Fun in bed* (not a sex manual, but a collection of diversions for the bedridden), which was sufficiently successful to be followed by *More fun in bed* and *Junior fun in bed*. True, there were few serious ufologists around in 1950; but Scully's credentials did nothing to enhance the credibility of his story.

The story Scully had to tell needed all the support it could get. In the course of his professional writing, he claimed, he had come across a Texas oilman named Silas Newton who, in turn, told Scully of his colleague 'Dr Gee' – who, he alleged, had first-hand knowledge of three UFOs that were held in the custody of the United States military, along with 16 dead occupants, about 3 feet (1 metre) tall. No supportive evidence was produced: all depended on the word of 'Dr Gee', who claimed to have been one of the scientists called in by the authorities to examine the UFOs.

This drawback did not prevent Scully's book selling more than 60,000 copies; but it did mean that when, two years later, a journalist named J.P. Kahn wrote an article pointing out the weaknesses of Scully's story, he found it easy enough to persuade the world that it was a total fabrication. The fact that Kahn's exposé was itself full of exaggerations and inaccuracies was overlooked: it made its point, which was that Scully had taken his story on trust and done virtually no independent research. Newton and 'Dr Gee' were labelled frauds.

The disrepute into which the crash-and-capture story subsequently fell was not, of course, entirely due to Scully's shortcomings. Quite independently, public opinion was swinging round to the idea that UFOs, whatever else they might be, were not man-made; and if they were the products of an extra-terrestrial technology, the technology that had brought them to Earth might also save them from the breakdowns and accidents to which earthly machines are liable.

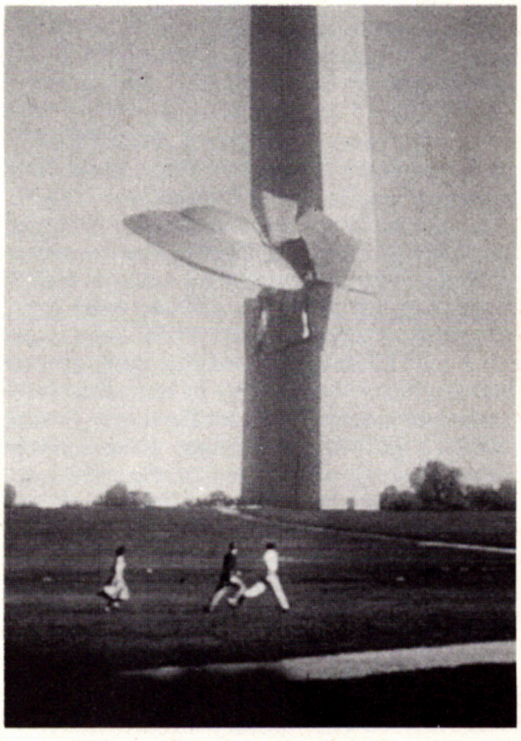
It was not until some 25 years later that the crashed saucer legend surfaced again. In April 1976 there appeared in the pages of *Official UFO* (at that time a fairly serious journal) an article entitled 'What about crashed UFOs?', by the widely respected investigator Raymond Fowler. Instead of serving up the vague rumours of the past, he produced dramatic new evidence in the form of a technician's sworn statement that he had personally examined a crashed UFO at Kingman, Arizona, on 21 May 1953.

Above: the cover of the August 1979 issue of the American *UFO Review* – with a 'special "Would you believe" supplement' – shows a US soldier standing guard over a captured UFO. Despite such sensationalism, there is evidence to support the suspicion that the US military is holding crashed UFOs – and their alien occupants – for examination

Left: the sites of some of the alleged sightings between 1947 and 1953 of UFO wreckage in the hands of the military – and the airfields then used for weapons testing

Left: a photograph of an alleged dead alien retrieved from a UFO that crashed in New Mexico on 7 July 1948. In evaluating the photograph, it is perhaps worth noting the distinctly terrestrial spectacle frames beneath the shoulder of the 'humanoid'

Below: a flying saucer collides with the Washington Monument in this still from the 1956 movie *Earth vs flying saucers*. However advanced the technology of UFOs, the argument goes, there is no reason why they should not sometimes crash – and if they do, then surely it is natural for the military to take an interest?



From then on, interest in the subject became both more serious and more intense. Another investigator of repute, Leonard Stringfield, dedicated himself to the search for further evidence; and while he ranged far and wide in his quest, William Moore and Stanton Friedman, in conjunction with Charles Berlitz, concentrated on a single case that was to become very famous – the Roswell incident (see page 2034).

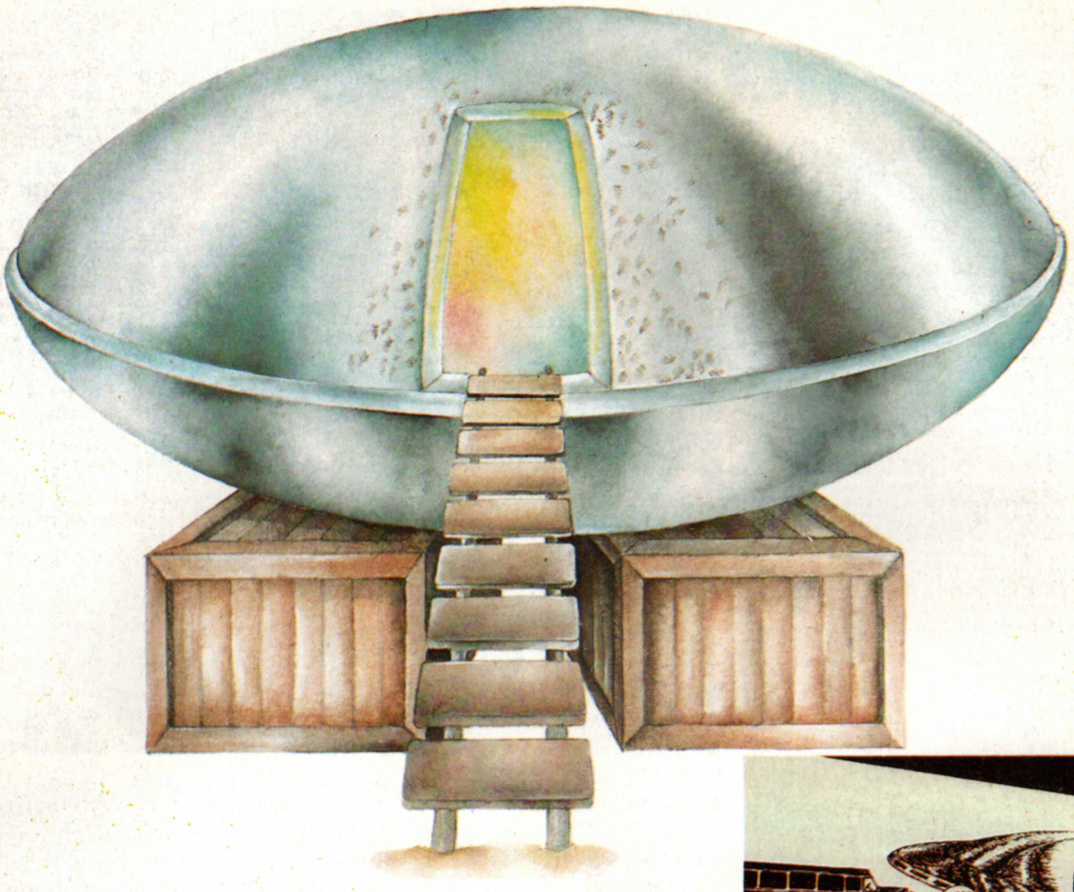
### Strange corpses

The story, in outline, is as follows. Sitting outside their home on the night of 2 July 1947, a couple at Roswell, New Mexico, saw a glowing object streak across the sky. About 75 miles (120 kilometres) further on in the direction of its path, a rancher next morning found extraordinary debris scattered over his ground. A further 150 miles (240 kilometres) or so away, an engineer and some archaeologists came across the remains of an unidentifiable flying vehicle, together with several very strange bodies. The authorities took control, announced that the object was simply a weather balloon, and nothing more was heard of the matter – until Moore, Friedman and Berlitz took it up.

Other cases, uncannily similar in some respects, abound. On 7 July 1948, near Del Rio, Texas, USA, unusual radar sightings led to the suspicion that an unidentified flying object had crashed some 30 miles (50 kilometres) across the Mexican border. With permission from the Mexican government, US troops went to investigate, and found a metallic disc, with the burned bodies of the crew, more or less human-like beings about 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall. The object, which had been clocked at 2000 miles per hour (3200 km/h) by radar, had been simultaneously seen on radar by USAF Colonel Whitcomb in an F94. He landed at his home base and immediately took off for the scene in a borrowed light aircraft; he found Mexican troops in control, and the object hidden from sight. A naval intelligence officer arrived in time to see the crash area roped off and some object being loaded onto trucks.

The troops taking part were apparently warned that if they spoke of the matter they would be 'the sorriest people around'. Some photographs, allegedly of the bodies of the

Right: in 1953 a metallurgist named Daly, who worked at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, was sent on a secret mission to examine what appeared to be a flying saucer. After carrying out tests on it for two days, he concluded it must be of extra-terrestrial origin



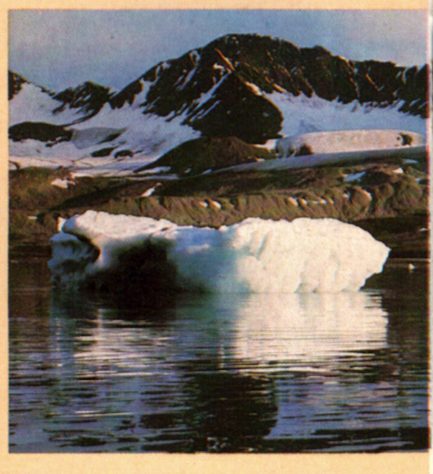
Far right: a still from a film of captured aliens allegedly shown to a group of officers and technicians at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1953, in an illustration from *Flying Saucer Review*. The viewers were told to think about the film, but not to tell anyone about it; two weeks later, they were told it had been a hoax

occupants, were circulating clandestinely some years later; they continue to be the subject of controversial debate.

Sometime in 1952, at the Muroc Air Force Base in California, a USAF radar operator tracked an object descending towards Earth at great speed. After a crash had been confirmed, he was instructed 'You didn't see anything.' Later he learned that a UFO, more than 17 yards (16 metres) in diameter, had crashed in a desert area not far away. It was metallic, and badly burned: it contained bodies of beings about 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall. The debris was kept for a while at the base, then allegedly shipped to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton in Ohio. There is strong evidence that at this time some object was indeed secretly shipped to the Wright-Patterson base.

Possibly relating to the same incident is a film that was shown the following spring, apparently by the military authorities, to a select group, including a radar specialist, a Mr T.E., who was working for the army and air force, stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and who had secret security clearance. The five-minute movie showed a silver disc-shaped object embedded in the sand in a remote desert area; it had a dome on top, and an open hatch or door. Some 10 to 15 military personnel could be seen standing near the craft, and its diameter, based on a comparison of its size with that of the human figures, appeared to be 6 to 8 yards (5 to 7 metres). The film also showed the bodies of three dead occupants: they were small and human-like, with over-large heads. The viewers were told to think about the film but not to tell anyone about it; two weeks later they were told it was a hoax. This seems strange, for there is a certain amount of evidence that the film was shown to officers at a number of military bases; clearly someone, somewhere, felt that it was important for them to see it. It seems all the more unlikely because, quite apart from the poor quality of the film, which – paradoxically – tends to suggest it is genuine, the cost in time and effort of setting up so elaborate a fake would have been formidable.

## Fragmentary evidence



In June 1952 six Norwegian army jets on summer manoeuvres over the bleakly inhospitable islands of Spitzbergen (right) spotted wreckage in a mountain area near the Hinlopen Straits. Within hours, using ski-planes, Norwegian investigators were on the site, including an expert on rocketry. No doubt a Soviet vehicle or missile was suspected, but instead they found the wreckage of a disc-shaped object, with 46 jet-like orifices on the rim; and the object seemed to be made of an unknown metal. There was no trace of occupants.

But what is perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this incident is the

The most explicit item of evidence in the entire crashed UFO saga is an affidavit signed in 1973 by a certain Fritz Werner – a pseudonym, although his true identity is known – who swore that he had assisted at the investigation into a crashed unknown object. While serving as project engineer on an air force contract near Kingman, Arizona, in 1953, he was given an assignment: along with some 15 others, he was taken early one morning under strict security conditions in a blacked-out bus on a five-hour journey. He and his companions were told that a super-secret air force craft had crashed, and that each of them was to investigate the crash in terms of his specific field of expertise.

Werner described the object as like two deep saucers, one inverted on the other, about 11 yards (10 metres) in diameter, made of dull silver metal, with an open hatch to the interior. His particular task was to calculate the object's impact velocity from the traces. He found no landing gear, also no dents or scratches. In a tent nearby he saw a dead humanoid on a table, about 4 feet 3 inches (1.3 metres) in height. Not only were the investigators instructed to tell nobody of the incident, they were not even allowed to discuss it among themselves.

Another incident from 1953 that may confirm the Fritz Werner report is the case of a metallurgist named Daly who worked for the air force at the Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He described being taken to a location, unidentified but abounding in hot sand; for the last part of his journey he was blindfolded. For two days he was required to examine the structure of a silvery metallic craft lying undamaged in the sand. He concluded it was not of earthly origin; he saw no sign of occupants.

Despite the evident discrepancies, these two reports may relate to the same incident. Relevant, too, may be the evidence given by the wife of a guard at Wright-Patterson; she alleged that, at about this time, her husband witnessed scientists examining the bodies of large-headed humanoids, about 3 feet (1 metre) in height.

Another incident, two years later, at the Wright-Patterson base, may confirm that pilots of crashed spacecraft were taken there for examination. A woman whose duty was to catalogue all incoming material relating to UFOs stated that she saw the bodies of two dead humanoids, about 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall, with large heads, being transferred from one location to another.

In March 1964 it was reported that a round, flat UFO, giving off a bright blue and orange light, had crashed high on Mount Chitpec, Mexico. Officials wanted to take it to the nearest town, San Cristobal de las Casas – but the local tribe, the Chalulas, insisted it was a gift from God and the Virgin, and refused to allow its removal.

### Bolivian mystery

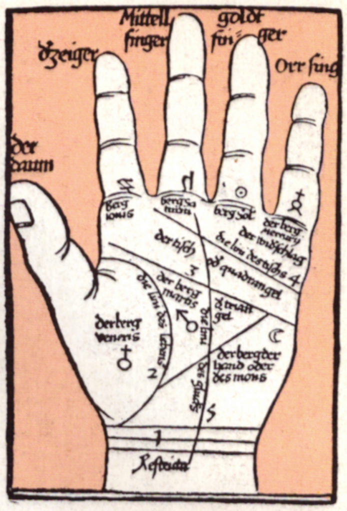
In Tarija, in the most remote and inaccessible part of Bolivia, many people saw a glowing object cross the afternoon sky on 6 May 1978. It was generally described as a metallic cylinder, some 8 or 9 yards (7 or 8 metres) in length, and artificial, though without windows or structural details. It was closely followed by another, smaller object. A few seconds later there was the sound of a great explosion, accompanied by an 'earthquake' that was registered on seismic equipment over some 77,000 square miles (200,000 square kilometres); after the crash, the smaller object was seen to fly away.

The object's rate of travel was far too slow for it to have been a meteor, and investigation ruled out a satellite returning to Earth. But while speculation bubbled in the press, a security blackout was officially imposed. Reporters saw the object removed by technicians, and asserted that it had been taken by the United States Air Force back to the USA. NASA denied being involved – as it would, of course, have done even if it had been.

The foregoing cases have been presented with a minimum of comment. They have been put together from accounts that often contain contradictory statements; they represent, however, the most coherent version available. At the same time, they represent less than half the alleged incidents. The evidence is very far from being convincing; at the same time, it is very hard to discount it altogether. To assert that every one of these allegations is a lie, or a misinterpretation of some simple event, is to call in question a great number of witnesses, unknown to one another yet many of them wholeheartedly trusted by experienced investigators. Their accounts, while often hazy and contradictory, nevertheless all point in the same direction.

*The best-documented 'crashed saucer' case ever: the Roswell incident. See page 2034*

comment of a high-ranking army officer, Colonel Gernod Darnbyl of the Norwegian general staff, who in 1955 said: 'The crashing of the Spitzbergen disc was highly important. Although our present scientific knowledge does not permit us to solve all the riddles, I am confident that these remains from Spitzbergen will be of utmost importance. Some time ago a misunderstanding was caused by saying that this disc probably was of Soviet origin. We wish to state categorically that it was not built by any country on Earth. The materials used in its construction are completely unknown to the experts who took part in the investigation.' He added that American and British experts were being consulted; since then – nothing. . . .



# On the other hand...

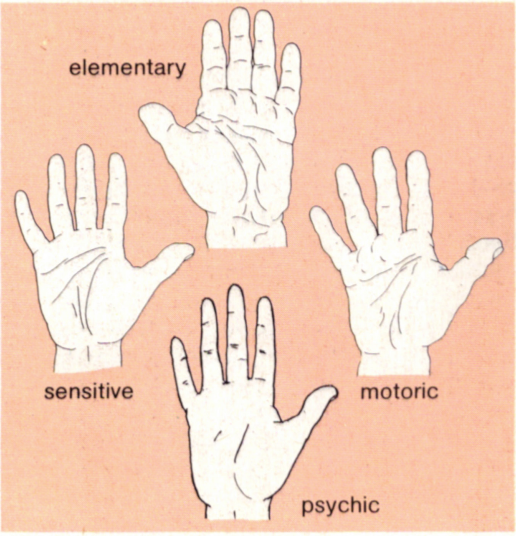
**The lines of the hand are as individual as personality – but is there a connection between them? And can a diviner trace a person's destiny in his or her palm? BRIAN INNES concludes his series on divination with an analysis of the practice of palmistry**

DIVINATION IS a means of answering questions and giving advice on what future action should be undertaken by the questioner. It works best with intense concentration of both practitioner and questioner, apparently by providing some kind of telepathic insight into the nature of the problem, the personality of the questioner, and the probable outcome of any given action.

To obtain the necessary concentration, almost all practitioners require some object on which they can focus their conscious faculties, in order to give the subconscious a free rein. Certain practitioners make use of something like a crystal ball, or a pendulum; but greater success seems to be achieved if the object on which attention is focused has some direct physical relationship with the questioner: playing cards that have been shuffled and cut by him or her, or some other kind of object that has been handled.

So far, all the methods of divination described in these articles – geomancy (see page 1901), the *I Ching* (see page 1926) and the Tarot (see page 1966) – have required a personal involvement on the part of the questioner, but the means of divination has always been physically divorced from him or her. There remains one major divinatory method that requires the closest co-operation of the questioner, because the object being consulted is part of the human body itself. This method is cheiromancy, more popularly known as palmistry.

There are many who would not regard palmistry as a divinatory method at all. Since the law recognises the uniqueness of the human fingerprint, there is every reason to suppose that the palmprint is just as individual. We recognise a particular dog or cat




Above left: palmistry has a long and venerable history – and remains popular today

Top: a diagram from Bartolomeo Cocle and (above) from Jean d'Indagine illustrating the ancient association between parts of the hand and the planets

Left: the four basic shapes of the hand according to Carl Carus. The 'elementary' hand is typical of the manual worker; the 'motoric' is large and strong but flexible, and is found among businessmen and craftsmen; the 'sensitive' hand, typical of writers and artists, is not as strong as the 'motoric' but is full of energy; and the 'psychic' is long and soft, indicating a personality that is sensitive and intuitive

by the distinctive pattern of its coat, and we could similarly recognise a person by the pattern of their palmprint. Since it is well-known that animal coat patterns are affected by many factors – the climate, the time of year, the health and genetic background of the individual – it is at least arguable that the human palmprint similarly has something to tell us about the individual.

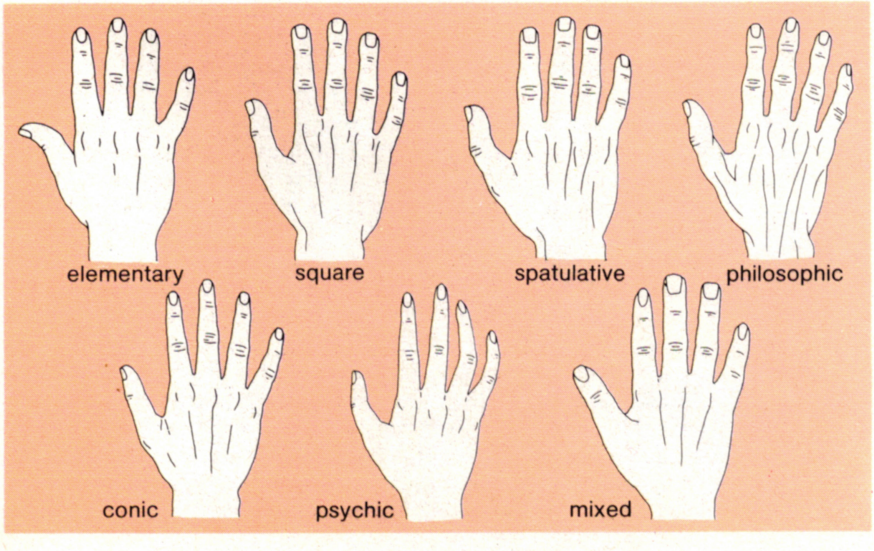
One palmist, in fact, has claimed that he read a young man's hand, saw that there was a strong indication that he might commit suicide, and suggested to him that he should have psychiatric help – and that six months later the lines of the young man's hand had changed out of all recognition.

There is some scientific evidence that the occurrence of abnormal lines on the hands may be related to certain hereditary diseases, such as heart defects or those related to chromosome deficiencies. In traditional palmistry the so-called 'simian' line – in which the Head line and the Heart line run as one – is held to be an indicator of 'degeneracy'; now a group of doctors in New York has reported that this line often occurs in mongoloid children or in those whose mother suffered an attack of rubella (German measles) during pregnancy.

Above: the 'Earth' hand is square, with short strong fingers and few lines; the 'Air' hand has longer fingers and finer lines; the fingers of the 'Fire' hand are short with many lines; and the 'Water' hand is narrow and delicate, with a mesh of fine lines

Below: the 'elementary' hand is typical of primitive people; the 'square' hand indicates a practical nature; the 'spatulative' hand denotes excitability; the 'philosophic' hand is self-explanatory; the 'conic' hand indicates someone who prefers pleasure to work; the 'psychic' hand speaks for itself. But most hands fall into the 'mixed' category

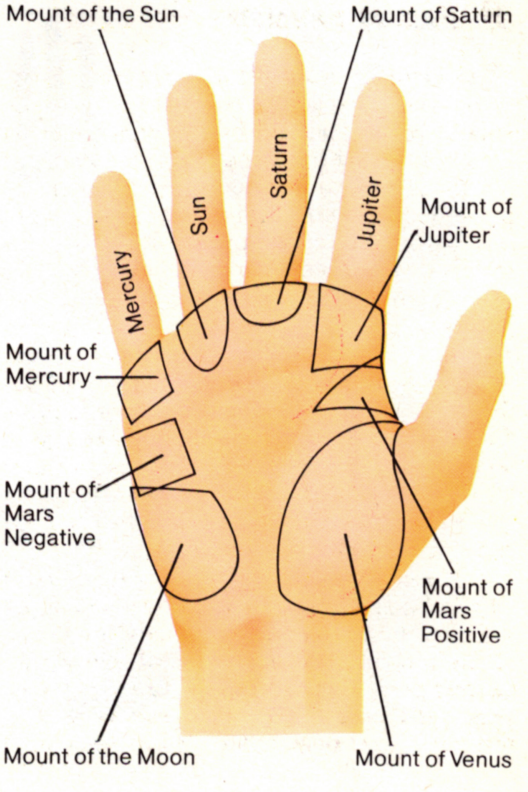
Right: the mounts and fingers




Whether or not there is any validity in this suggestion of a direct connection between the human metabolism and the lines of the hand, there is no doubt that the commonly accepted significance of the lines and parts of the hand must be based upon many centuries of empirical observation. Cheiromancy is recognised in the Bible, as in Proverbs 3:16: 'Long life is given in her right hand. In her left are riches and honour.' Or in Job 37:7: 'He seals up the hand of every man, that all men may know his work.'

Indeed, in this second verse, we can detect the old magical element in cheiromancy, the belief 'as above, so below'. It is quite possible that the first palmists believed the lines of the hand to be some sort of map of celestial motion, rather as if the subject's horoscope had been printed there.

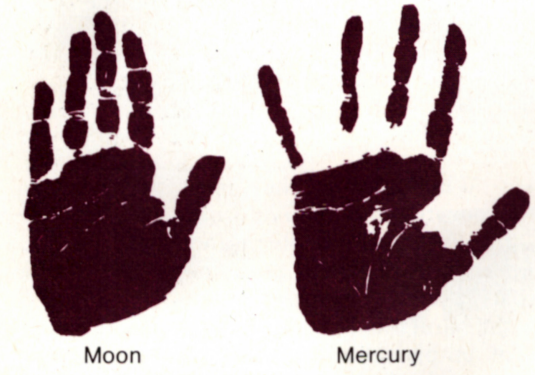
But whatever credence we may give to the interpretations placed upon individual lines

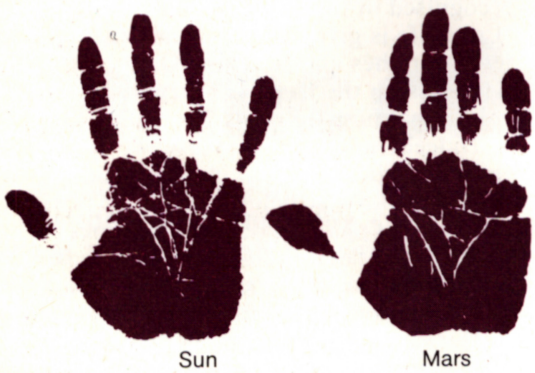


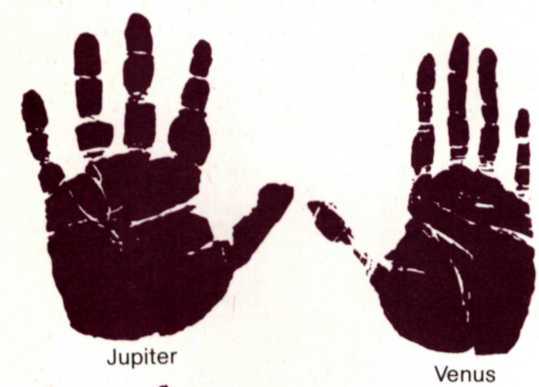
of the hand, there are other tenets of palmistry that are borne out by both popular and medical belief. Palmists place great importance on the form of the whole hand: its shape, its moistness or dryness, its relative fleshiness, the length and shape of the fingers, and the relationship of the thumb and fingers to the palm. And isn't this just what we all do – even subliminally – when we judge an individual's personality, and even the state of their health, from the touch of their hands?

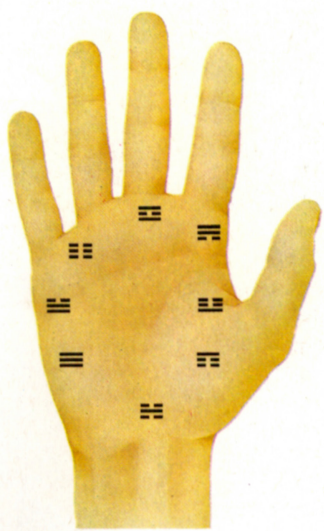
There are a number of different methods of classification of the basic shape of the hand. The German Carl Carus proposed four types, which he named 'elementary', 'motoric', 'sensitive' and 'psychic'; the Frenchman Casimir d'Arpentigny increased this to seven, the 'elementary', 'square' (or 'useful'), 'spatulative' (or 'necessary'), 'philosophic', 'conic', (or 'artistic'), 'psychic and 'mixed' hands.

Under the pseudonym of le Comte de St Germain, a late-19th-century writer expanded these to 14, including such oddities as the Congenital Idiot's hand and the Brutal Murderer's hand. In the 20th century, however, the tendency has been to reduce the number of shapes once more to four; a popular classification has been into Earth, Air, Fire and Water hands.

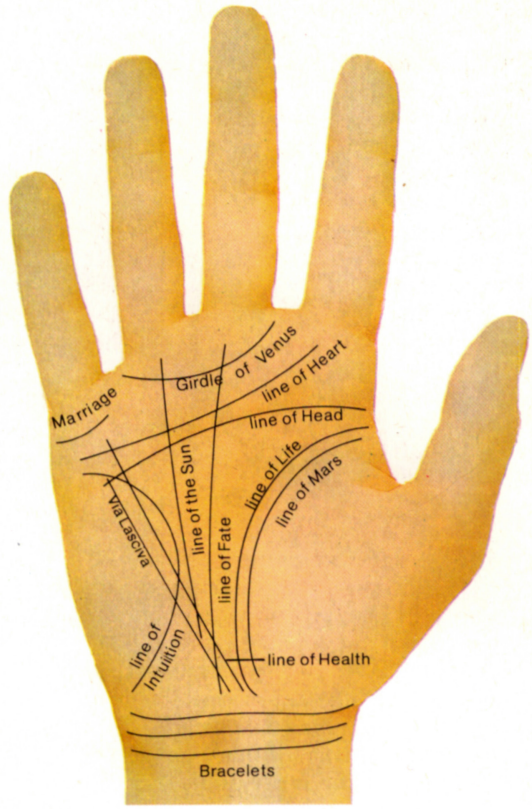




Above: the eight 'Palaces' of the hand in the Chinese system. Clockwise from the Mount of the Moon, these are: Ch'ien, for spiritual force; Tui, for sexual delight; K'un, for passivity; Li, for social and financial standing; Sun, for mental capacity; Chen, for energy and vitality; Ken, for obstinacy; and K'an, for difficulties to be faced




Above right: lines of the hand according to present-day practice

Left: classification of hand shapes on astrological principles. The Lunar hand is soft, with many lines: it indicates a restless but easygoing nature. The Mercurial hand, with its long finger of Mercury, denotes intellectual ability and quick wits. The Solar hand, with strong, short fingers, indicates ambition and trustworthiness. The Venusian hand, with its prominent Mount of Venus, is a sign of a cheerful and extrovert personality. The Martial hand has a very developed thumb and denotes courage and energy. The Jupiterian hand, with its thick and heavy fingers, is a sign of even temper and generosity. A long finger of Saturn characterises the Saturnine hand, indicating patience and shrewdness. The Earth hand is thick and firm, denoting a generous, slow but sure personality – and a loyal friend

### Astrological magic

Classifications of this kind have a certain natural logic to them; it is when we come to the fingers and the 'mounts' of the hand that astrological magic begins to take over. The mounts are the fleshy areas of the hand around the central palm, and each, with its related finger, is associated with one of the planets.

It is interesting to note that the fourth finger, which is associated with Apollo or the Sun, was long believed to have a vein running through it that connected directly to the heart, and it is for this reason that wedding rings are always placed upon this finger.

And so we come to the very complicated markings that appear all over the palm, the wrist and the fingers, and that no two people possess identically. There has been a great

deal of argument among palmists as to the relative significance of the lines on left and right hands respectively, which can differ quite markedly. The commonest (and perhaps the most sensible) theory is that, in a right-handed person whose lines will obviously be affected by the work they do throughout their lives, the lines of the left hand represent the destiny to which they were born, and the lines of the right hand represent what they have made of their life.

The lines of the palm are divided into principal and subsidiary lines. The 15th-century writer Jean d'Indagine recognised only four principal lines: the mensal, or line of Fortune; the line of Life, or line of Heart; the Middle line, which represented the subject's career; and the line of Liver, or Health line.

Indagine's near-contemporary, Bartolomeo Cocle, added a further line, the line of Fate, running from the wrist direct to the finger of Saturn; and later 17th-century writers identified more lines according to our modern nomenclature.

The subsidiary lines, which do not appear on every hand, are the Girdle of Venus, which runs from between the third and fourth fingers to between the first and second fingers; the line of the Sun, which runs from near the wrist to the finger of the Sun; the line of Mars, which runs round the Mount of Venus within the line of Life; the Via Lasciva, which runs parallel to the line of Health further toward the outside of the hand; the line of Intuition, which curves round the Mount of the Moon; and the line of Marriage, which curves across the Mount of Mercury. The Bracelets, which run across the wrist, are taken as indications of the constitution of the subject.

When the palmist has considered the form of the subject's hand, the relative size of the fingers, and the implications of the various lines, he will turn his attention to the many smaller marks that can be found on the palm surface and on the fingers. He will look particularly for marks in the form of a star, a cross, a square, a circle, a triangle, a tripod or a spearhead. 'Islands' or spots that break up the lines also have their significance.

Palmistry, like astrology and geomancy, is also practised in China; although it is interpreted very differently, the readings obtained nevertheless correlate very closely with those arrived at by Western methods.

Chinese palmistry divides the palm into eight 'Palaces', which are designated by the eight trigrams of the *I Ching* (see page 1926). The procedures of Chinese palmistry are thus quite closely related to the initial stages of Western palmistry, in which particular attention is paid to the shape of the hand; considerably less attention is devoted to the significance of the individual lines, which are seen as defining the areas occupied by the eight Palaces.

With this brief description of the techniques of cheiromancy, we come to the end of our consideration of the principal methods of divination practised throughout the world. But there remain perhaps hundreds of minor methods, either peculiar to a particular region, or of such inscrutable complexity that they are understood only by their practitioners.

There are hundreds of textbooks from which the eager enquirer can learn the practice of divination by horoscope, geomancy, the *I Ching*, Tarot cards or palmistry. Those with developed clairvoyant faculties may try 'scrying' with a mirror, a bowl of water or a crystal ball. The businessman who wants advice on his investments, or the general who has hopes of becoming the ruler of his country, no longer expects the diviner to:

Pour in sow's blood that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease that sweaten
From the murderer's gibbet throw
Into the flame.

**Further reading**

Brian Innes, *The Tarot*, Orbis 1978
Francis King, *Palmistry*, Orbis 1979
Neil Powell, *The book of Change*, Orbis 1978

Below left: a female hand that is both 'psychic' and a typical 'Water' hand, with lunar characteristics. This is a sensitive, changeable person, but the well-developed finger of Jupiter suggests good judgement. The line of Life is strong and well-marked. Although the line of Heart begins quite strongly from below the Mount of Jupiter it breaks before ending, chained, below the Mount of Mercury. It seems as if this person had no one on whom to direct her affection until later life; there is only one 'line of Marriage'. The line of Head begins strongly on the Mount of Jupiter, indicating an ambitious character, but it breaks, revealing inner conflict. The line of Fate begins strongly at the wrist but stops on the line of Heart, perhaps indicating that emotional problems will interfere with her career

Below: hand of a young man before and after psychiatry. The deep line on the Mount of the Moon has almost vanished and the many lines under the finger of Apollo have become one strong line

# A thoroughly modern medium

**Few Spiritualist mediums have questioned the otherworldly origin of their powers, but Eileen Garrett, one of the most gifted, had her doubts. ROY STEMMAN tells the story of this unusually objective psychic**

EILEEN GARRETT has been described as 'probably the most thoroughly investigated medium of modern times'. The reason, quite apart from her exceptional psychic talents, was that she devoted most of her life to encouraging research into mediumship and its meaning, frequently offering herself as the first psychic guinea-pig in experiments.

Her powers ranged from clairvoyance and astral projection to physical mediumship. But it was as a trance medium – apparently allowing the dead to speak through her lips – that she made the greatest impact. It was in this manner that she was used as a channel for communications allegedly from the captain of the British airship *R101*, Flight-Lieutenant H.C. Irwin, in 1930: a remarkable case that many still regard as among the best in providing evidence for life after death (see page 470).

Eileen Garrett as a young woman. Brought up against a background of sectarian strife in Ireland she soon rejected religion, and even after she became a famous medium she was frequently irritated by the dogmatic assertions of many Spiritualists. She was eager to be scientifically investigated in the hope that more could be discovered about the human psyche

But Mrs Garrett was more reticent about her mediumship than others. She accepted that the content of her trance communications was paranormal in origin, but she was open-minded about 'the dead' who spoke through her. This ambiguous approach to her mediumship extended to the spirit 'controls' who worked through her, each of whom had a distinct personality. There was Uvani, who claimed to have been a soldier in India centuries ago, and Abdul Latif, a 12th-century physician from the court of Saladin, whose particular interest was healing. In the early days of her mediumship Mrs Garrett accepted them as spirit helpers, but in time she began to doubt this and believed, instead, that they might be secondary personalities produced by her own subconscious.

### Split personalities?

In an attempt to find the truth Mrs Garrett willingly participated in experiments designed to compare these trance personalities with her own waking personality. The investigators spent many hours talking to Uvani and Abdul Latif – even using word association tests on the spirit controls and the medium. However, these tests were inconclusive. One investigator decided that Uvani was probably a 'split-off' personality from the medium – indeed, Uvani himself said he manipulated a split-off portion of Mrs Garrett's unconscious. Another researcher concluded that the two spirit controls were independent personalities.

Mrs Garrett's own opinion in later life, given in her autobiography *Many voices* (1968), was:

> I prefer to think of the controls as principals of the subconscious. I had, unconsciously, adopted them by name and during the years of early training. I respect them, but cannot explain them. . . . The controls are well aware that I have maintained an impartial, but respectful, attitude towards my own work and theirs, and so the search continues.

Later, she added, 'I have never been able wholly to accept them as the spiritual dwellers on the threshold, which they seem to believe they are.'

The mystery deepened with the surfacing of two more controls. One, named Tehotah, claimed to be an entity that personified the Logos or divine word, while Rama was said to be the personification of the life force.

Left: New York psychologist Lawrence LeShan was impressed with Mrs Garrett's psychic gifts and her analytical intelligence. He investigated her thoroughly; during one psychometry experiment LeShan was amazed when Mrs Garrett, picking up an envelope containing the target object – an ancient Babylonian tablet (below) – not only described it accurately but proceeded to give a detailed description of the secretary who had originally parcelled it up

Neither had incarnated as an individual.

Eileen Garrett was born in County Meath, in the Republic of Ireland, on 17 March 1893, the daughter of Anne Brownell and a Spaniard named Vancho. Two weeks later her mother drowned herself and a few weeks after that her father also committed suicide: the double tragedy created, apparently, by the pressures of Protestant and Catholic conflicts. As a result, Eileen was brought up by an uncle and aunt – who were Protestant, but no bigots.

### A late uncle's advice

Like so many other sensitive children – and in particular natural psychics – Eileen had playmates who were invisible to others. But the most impressive paranormal experience of those early years concerned her uncle, who had been extremely kind and understanding to her. A couple of weeks after his death Eileen saw him standing before her 'looking young, erect and strong'. He said that he understood the difficulties of her present life. Then he predicted that she would go to London to study in two years – which is exactly what happened. He then vanished before she could ask any questions. It was from that moment that Eileen became interested in the question of survival of death.

In time she encountered Spiritualism and began developing her psychic gifts – particularly trance mediumship – under the guidance of James Hewat McKenzie at the British College of Psychic Science. As a result, she provided many bereaved people with impressive evidence for survival.

In 1931 the American Society for Psychical Research invited her to New York to give sittings, and she also worked with Professor William McDougall and Dr J.B. Rhine at Duke University, North Carolina, in experiments into ESP.

New York psychologist Lawrence LeShan spent more than 500 hours questioning Mrs Garrett about her psychic abilities, then designed several experiments to test them thoroughly. One was a psychometry test in which the medium was asked to hold various objects and give her clairvoyant impressions about them.

The objects included a fossil fish, a scrap of bandage, a piece of stone from Mount Vesuvius, an old Greek coin and an ancient Babylonian clay tablet. Each was wrapped in tissue, then placed in a box that, in turn, was put inside a manila envelope and numbered. Another person then put these numbered envelopes inside larger envelopes, marking them with a different number. As a result, no one knew which object was inside which envelope.

During preparations for this experiment a secretary picked up the Babylonian tablet and examined it. Two weeks later, when LeShan conducted the experiment with Mrs Garrett 1500 miles (2400 kilometres) away in

Right: James Hewat McKenzie, Mrs Garrett's psychic mentor who helped her develop her gifts at the British College of Psychic Science

Left: Cecil B. de Mille, director of epic films and a notoriously tough character; nevertheless he was reduced to tears when Mrs Garrett described an old lady she 'saw' standing next to him. It was a perfect description of his dead mother

**Further reading**


Eileen Garrett, *Many voices*, Putnam (New York) 1968

Eileen Garrett, *Adventures in the supernormal*, Paperback Library (New York) 1968

Lawrence LeShan, *Alternate realities*, Sheldon Press 1967

Lawrence LeShan, *The medium, the mystic and the physicist*, Turnstone Books 1974


Florida, she picked up an envelope and said immediately that there was 'a woman associated with this'.

It was later found that this envelope contained the clay tablet, and Mrs Garrett's description of the woman so perfectly matched the secretary who had handled it that, according to LeShan, it would have been possible 'to pick her out of a line-up of 10,000 women'. The medium even mentioned two scars that the woman had.

During the experiments with her, LeShan learned indirectly of a man who had vanished from a mid western city in the USA. He gave Mrs Garrett, in New York, a square of cloth cut from one of the man's shirts and asked for her impressions. The medium gave a fairly accurate description of the missing man, whose appearance was, at that time, unknown to LeShan, adding that he had had a loss in his family between the ages of 13 and 15. It was discovered that his father had deserted the family when he was 14 and had not been heard of since. She also said that the man was in La Jolla, California, and it was confirmed later that he had gone there after leaving his home.

A spontaneous phenomenon of a physical kind occurred in 1931 when Mrs Garrett was lying on an operating table in hospital. Just after she succumbed to the anaesthetic, the doctors and nurses in attendance heard a voice. Her physician, who had been in India in his youth, told her later that he recognised certain definite words of command, as spoken in Hindustani. Because of the way Mrs Garrett had been prepared for the operation the doctor knew that it was quite impossible for her to utter a sound. He was so impressed by the experience that he sent a letter to various Spiritualist leaders putting the circumstances on record.

Eileen Garrett was far removed from the popular, otherworldly, image of a medium. She had a vivacious personality and a questing spirit, and in addition to her psychic work she also ran a tea room, a workers' hostel and eventually a literary magazine, *Tomorrow*, which she later changed to deal entirely with psychic matters.

She married three times, lost three sons – one at birth and two through illness. Her daughter continues her work through the Parapsychology Foundation, which Eileen Garrett founded in New York in 1951.

Eileen Garrett died at Le Piol, France, in 1970, having made an enormous personal contribution to psychical research. She had no doubt about the reality of paranormal phenomena. What she *did* doubt was the spirit hypothesis of mediumship that so many accept blindly. And by setting up the Parapsychology Foundation she ensured that the search for some understanding of the nature of psychic phenomena would continue long after her death.

Below: Eileen Garrett was a prolific writer and a dynamic personality. Here she surveys some of the books written by or about her

Below right: after Mrs Garrett's death in 1970 her daughter continued her work through the Parapsychological Foundation, which Eileen founded in 1951

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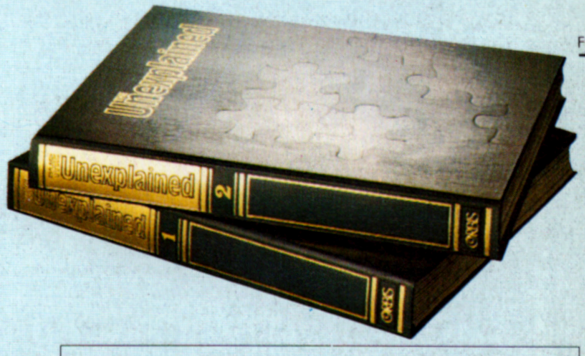


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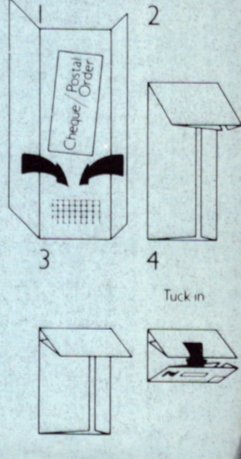

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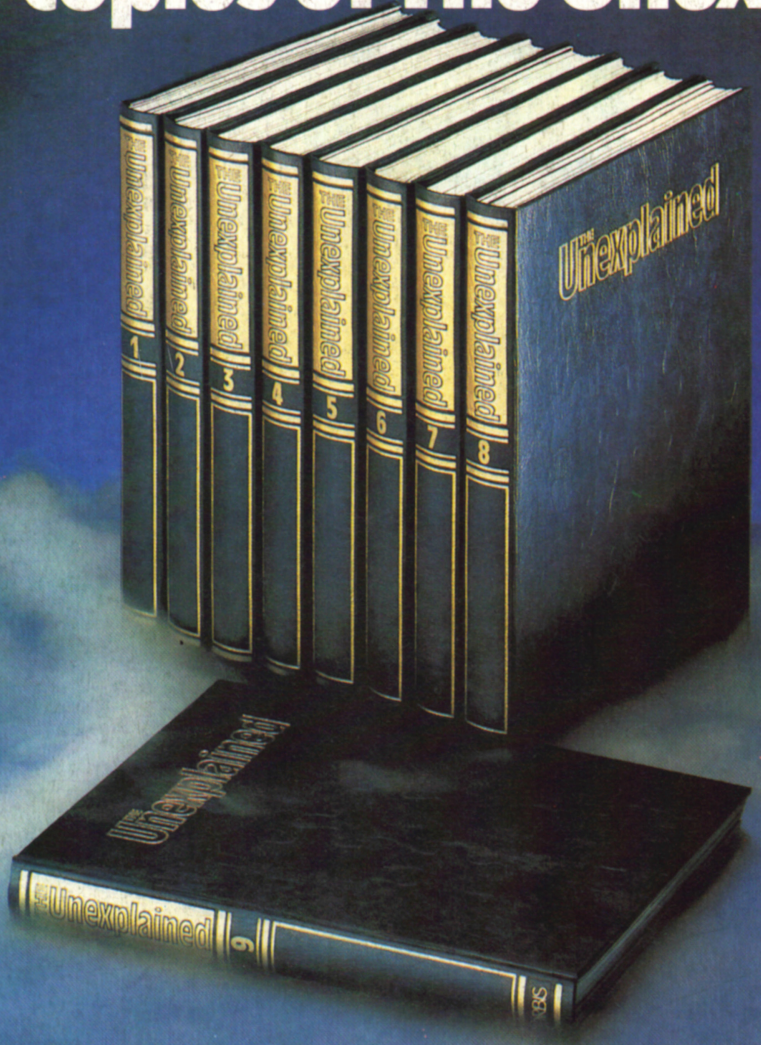


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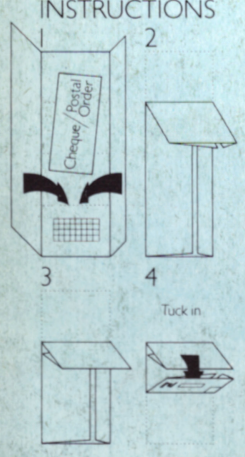


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